

WILLIAM FREDERICK REYNOLDS,)
)
Petitioner,)
)
vs.)
)
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
)
Respondent.)
)

THIS MATTER is before the Court on Petitioner’s Motion to Vacate, Set Aside, or Correct Sentence filed under 28 U.S.C. § 2255, (Doc. No. 1). For the reasons that follow, the Court finds that this is an unauthorized, successive petition, and the Court therefore dismisses the Motion to Vacate.

On August 24, 2004, Petitioner pled guilty to bank robbery, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2113(a), and using and carrying and, in furtherance of a crime of violence, possessing a firearm, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1). (Crim. Case No. 3:04CR-107, Doc. No. 43: Judgment). Petitioner was sentenced to a total of 144 months' imprisonment. (Id.). On May 23, 2006, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed Petitioner's appeal. United States v. Reynolds, 182 Fed. App'x 193 (4th Cir. 2006).

On September 20, 2006, Petitioner filed a Section 2255 motion to vacate, which this Court denied and dismissed on January 26, 2007. (Crim. Case No. 3:04CR-107, Doc. Nos. 73; 76; Civil No. 3:06-cv-401). On May 18, 2012, Petitioner filed the pending Section 2255 motion to vacate.

DISCUSSION

Petitioner filed the instant Motion to Vacate on May 18, 2012, seeking to have the Court vacate his conviction and sentence in Criminal Case No. 3:04CR-107. As noted, Petitioner filed a previous motion to vacate the same conviction and sentence on September 20, 2006. Thus, this is the second Section 2255 petition filed by Petitioner challenging the conviction and sentence in Criminal Case No. 3:04CR-107.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(A), “[b]efore a second or successive application permitted by this section is filed in the district court, the applicant shall move in the appropriate court of appeals for an order authorizing the district court to consider the application.” Thus, Petitioner must first obtain an order from the Fourth Circuit before this Court will consider any second or successive petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2255. Petitioner has not shown that he has obtained the permission of the Fourth Circuit to file a successive petition. See also 28 U.S.C. § 2255(h) (stating that “[a] second or successive motion must be certified as provided in section 2244 by a panel of the appropriate court of appeals”). Accordingly, this unauthorized, successive petition must be dismissed. See Burton v. Stewart, 549 U.S. 147, 153 (2007) (holding that failure of petitioner to obtain authorization to file a “second or successive” petition deprived the district court of jurisdiction to consider the second or successive petition “in the first place”). Accord Everette v. United States, 5:04-cv-358, 2012 WL 4486107 (E.D.N.C. Sept. 28, 2012) (dismissing a § 2255 motion as a successive petition where the petitioner raised a claim under United States v. Simmons, 649 F.3d 237 (4th Cir. 2011)).

CONCLUSION

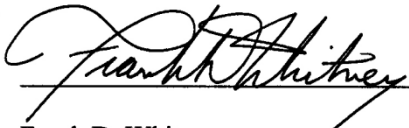
For the foregoing reasons, the Court will dismiss Petitioner’s Section 2255 Motion to Vacate for lack of jurisdiction because the motion is a successive petition and Petitioner has not

first obtained permission from the Fourth Circuit to file the motion.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that:

1. Petitioner's Motion to Vacate, (Doc. No. 1), is **DISMISSED** as a successive petition.
2. **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that pursuant to Rule 11(a) of the Rules Governing Section 2254 and Section 2255 Cases, this Court declines to issue a certificate of appealability. See 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2); Miller-El v. Cockrell, 537 U.S. 322, 338 (2003) (in order to satisfy § 2253(c), a petitioner must demonstrate that reasonable jurists would find the district court's assessment of the constitutional claims debatable or wrong); Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000) (when relief is denied on procedural grounds, a petitioner must establish both that the dispositive procedural ruling is debatable and that the petition states a debatable claim of the denial of a constitutional right).

Signed: February 26, 2013



Frank D. Whitney
United States District Judge

